64

MINUTES

— OF THE —

Sixty-fourth Anniversary

— OF THE —

Mississippi Baptist Association,

— HELD WITH —

Hopewell Church, Franklin County, Miss.,

October 8th and 10th, A. D., 1870.

OFFICERS:

ELDER Z. REEVES, MODERATOR.
A. J. EVERETT, CLERK.
JAMES A. JENKINS, TREASURER OF THE ASSOCIATION.
W. Z. LEA, TREAS. OF MISSIONARY AND BENEVOLENT FUND.

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MINUTES.

HOPEWELL, MISS., OCTOBER 8, 1870.

The Mississippi Baptist Association, met with Hopewell Church, Franklin county, Mississippi.

Elder C. H. Otken, being absent, Elder S. Buffkin, his alternate, preached the introductory sermon, from II Corinthians, V Chapter XX verse. "Now that we are embassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: We pray you in Christ's stead be ye reconciled to God."

After a recess of an hour, the delegates composing the association, assembled in the house, and were called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder Z. Reeves. Brothers G. F. Webb and W. F. Cain were appointed as reading clerks.

Brothers Stephen Jackson, H. S. Anderson and S. E. McDonald were appointed as a financial committee.

The Treasurer being absent, on motion, Brother D. B. Cain was appointed Treasurer pro tem. of the association.

The Treasurer of the Missionary and Benevolent Fund being absent, on motion, Brother W. Z. Lea, was appointed Treasurer *pro tem.* of said Fund.

Elder James Newman was appointed to preach at the stand.

Called for, and read letters from the several churches, enrolled the names of their delegates.

The following query came up from Liberty church, viz: "Has a church of Christ any scriptural authority for excusing drunkenness in one of its members, though an acknowledgment should be made by the offender?"

The following from Pioneer Church, viz: "What steps should a church take towards a member, who applies to a sister church for membership without a letter of dismission; and is received by said church as a member, and in what light should a church regard the action of another church who has thus received one of her members?"

The Association then proceeded to the election of officers, which resulted, as follows: Elder Z. Reeves, Moderator; A. J. Everett, Clerk;

James A Jenkins, Treasurer of the Association; W. Z. Lea, Treasurer of Missionary and Benevolent Fund; Brothers H. A. Davis and W. P. Dodds acting as tellers.

Ministering brethren of our faith and order who were not members of the association, were invited to a participation in the deliberations of the association.

The Moderator then appointed Brothers D. B. Cain, T. J. Scott and Wm. R. Jones as a committee on preaching; Elders T. J. Draine, S. Buffkin and W. W. Bolles appointed as a committee on queries.

The committee on preaching made the following report, which was received and adopted. Elders T. J. Draine, W. W. Bolles and J. Newman to preach on the Sabbath in the order of their names.

Letters of correspondence called for and read, as follows:

From Strong River Association, a letter and package of minutes by her messenger, Elder A. A. Rodgers. Union—a letter by the hands of her messenger, Elder James Newman. Pearl River—a letter and package of minutes by her messenger, Elder W. H. Baily; all of which were read and received, and the right hand of fellowship extended to their messengers.

The Moderator then appointed Brother W. F. Cain, messenger to Pearl River Association; and on motion, the Moderator was also appointed; Brother Cain to write.

Elders S. Buffkin and W. W. Bolles to Union Association; Elder Buffkin to write.

Brothers H. A. Davis and E. P Douglas to Strong River; Brother Douglas to write.

Elder T. J. Draine and Brother G. F. Webb to the Mississippi River; Elder Draine to write.

Brothers W. Z. Lea and James E. Bates to Eastern Louisiana; Brother Lea, to write.

Elder T. J. Draine, Stephen Jackson and Joshua Glass, appointed as a committee on abstracts.

Elder T. J. Draine and Brothers Joshua Glass and W. P. Dodds, appointed as a committee on temperance.

Brothers H. S. Anderson, S. T. VanNorman and T. J. Scott, were appointed a nominating committee.

Brothers D. B. Cain, Stephen Jackson and G. F. Webb, appointed as a committee on Sabbath Schools.

Brothers D. B. Cain, E. Seale and G. F. Webb, appointed as a committee on the support of the ministry.

On motion, Brothers S. G. Dixon and S. Leake were excused from further attendance on this association.

On motion, the Association adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock.

Prayer by Elder James Newman.

A. J. EVERETT, Clerk. Z. REEVES, Moderator.

SABBATH EXERCISES.

Elders Draine and Bolles preached to a large and attentive congregation in the order of their names, after which Elder Newman closed the exercises of the day. The day was pleasant, the exercises impressive, and we trust the fruit of these labors will be gathered after many days.

A public collection on this day which the Treasurer's report will show.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock, October 10, 1870.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Opened by singing and prayer. Prayer by Elder Z. Reeves.

The roll was called and absentees marked. The rules of decorum and powers of the association were read by the clerk.

On motion, the following order of business was adopted:

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Call the Roll.
2. Reading rules of decorum and powers of the association.
3. Call for reports.
4. Call for corresponding letters.
5. Call for queries.
6. Motions and resolutions.
7. Appointments.
8. Adjournment.

Elders Wilson Clark and A. A Rodgers were appointed to preach at the stand in the order of their names.

Report of the Executive Board was read and adopted. See appendix A.

Report of the committee on finance was read and adopted. See appendix B.

Report of the Treasurer was read and adopted. See appendix C.

Report of the committee on ministerial support was read and adopted. See appendix D.

Report of the committee on nominations was read and adopted. See appendix E.

Report of the Treasurer of the executive committee was read and adopted. See appendix F.

Report of committee on queries was read and adopted. See appendix G.

Report of the committee on temperance was read and adopted. See appendix H.

Report of the committee on Sabbath Schools was read and adopted. See appendix I.

Report of the committee on abstracts was read and adopted. See appendix J.

Letters of correspondence to Pearl River, Eastern Louisiana, Strong River, Union and Mississippi River associations were read and adopted.

Resolved, That this association elect delegates to represent this body in the next Southern Baptist Sabbath School Convention.

Resolved, That our executive committee be requested to employ one or more missionaries to labor under their supervision, to preach to the destitute, to distribute Bibles and other religious literature, to establish Sabbath Schools, and collect funds for the objects of his mission.

Resolved, That the members of this association resolve themselves into a committee of the whole, as collecting agents, to collect money for missionary purposes.

Resolved, That this association appoint an advisory committee to superintend the organization of the colored churches in the bounds of our association into an association of their own.

On motion, Elders Z. Reeves, W. W. Bolles, T. J. Draine, S. Buffkin and — Kingsbury were appointed in compliance with the above resolution.

On motion, the association adjourned until 2 o'clock.

MONDAY, October 10th, 2 o'clock P. M.

The association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder S. Buffkin.

Resolved, That the thanks of this association be tendered to the citizens in the vicinity of Hopewell church, for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained the delegates of this association.

Resolved, That the thanks of this association be tendered the Moderator and Clerk for the efficient discharge of their duties.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Brother G. F. Webb, be appointed as a committee of one to request of Elder T. J. Draine, a copy of his sermon, delivered before this body, on the Sabbath, at 11 o'clock, for publication in The Baptist, by Elder J. R. Graves.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Brother W. F. Cain be allowed to correct his report, made at the association held in Holmesville, in the year 1865, by striking out the name of W. Z. Lea, and inserting the name of Elder Z. Reeves.

On motion, Elder Z. Reeves was appointed to preach the Missionary Sermon at the next meeting of this body. Elder S. Buffkin to be his alternate.

On motion, Tangipaho Church was granted a letter of dismission.

On motion, Elders Draine, Buffkin and Bolles and Brothers W. F. Cain and G. F. Webb, were appointed as delegates to the Sabbath School Convention.

On motion, Elders Buffkin, Draine, Bolles and Reeves, and Brother E. P. Douglas were appointed as delegates to the Baptist State Convention.

On motion, the clerk was instructed to have one thousand (1000) copies of the minutes of this association printed and distributed, and that he receive thirty dollars for the same.

On motion, the articles of Faith, Rules of Decorum, and powers of the association were ordered to be printed in the minutes of this association.

The association then proceeded to the selection of a place for the next meeting of this body, which resulted in the choice of Fort Adams, Wilkinson county

On motion, the association adjourned to meet with Fort Adams Church, Wilkinson county. Mississippi, on Saturday before the second Lord's day in October, 1871. Prayer by Elder Z. Reeves.

ELDER Z. REEVES, Moderator.

A. J. EVERETT, Clerk.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

The Executive Committee of the Mississipppi Baptist Association beg leave to submit the following report, viz:

On Monday, after the adjournment of the association, your commitee met at Brother Moses Jackson's, and organized by electing Bro. Jackson Chairman, and W. Z. Lea, secretary. After canvassing our duties, we selected Elder W. W. Bolles. We made known to him our wishes and desired that he should give his whole time to missionary work, for which we obligated ourselves to pay him one thousand dollars, one half of which we agreed to pay in advance. Elder Bolles requested time to consider the proposition. Your committee then adjourned to meet at Galilee Church on Saturday before the 3d Sabbath in November, at which time Elder Bolles met the committee and accepted our proposition, but desired to fill his engagements with his churches until the close of the year, at which time he agreed to commence his labors as Missionary of the Mississippi Baptist Association. Brother E. B. McLain was then appointed as Treasurer. Owing to heavy rains last winter Elder Bolles did not reach his field of labor until the last week in January, 1870; at which time, he commenced his labors as missionary in the field designated to him by your committee. He found the churches in a disorganized condition and the members demoralized with a few exceptions. Elder Bolles has made quarterly reports to us up to this time, all of which have given the committee entire satisfaction. We do rejoice and feel thankful to God for the cheering reports which have been sent up from the churches in his field of labor. Elder Bolles has been laboring also at Smyrna and Shiloh, at which places there are no organized churches, but a growing interest.

The following table will show the amount of labor performed:

Number of miles traveled, 1024; Sermons preached, 113; Baptized, 21; Restored, 17; Denominational works distributed, $100 worth; Four Sabbath Schools organized; Ordained one Deacon.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. Z. LEA,
Secretary.

MOSES JACKSON,
Chairman.

APPENDIX B.

Your Financial Committee beg leave to submit the following report of money received for Associational purposes and paid over to the Treasurer:

Received from Ebenezer $8; East Fork $5	$13 00
Zion Hill $5; Galilee $5; Hopewell $5	15 00
Friendship, Pike co. $3; Mars Hill $5; Mt. Pleasant $4	12 00
Liberty $8; Friendship, Franklin co. $3; Mt. Zion $8	19 00
Mt. Zion, Lincoln co. $6; Sarepta $4; Union $5	15 00
Damascus $3; Mt. Vernon $4; Percy's Creek $3	10 00

Pioneer $5; Macedonia $3; Woodville $5	13 00
Fort Adams $9; Spring Hill $2; Tangipaho $3	14 00
	$111 00

All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. S. ANDERSON, Chairman.

APPENDIX C.

JAMES A. JENKINS, Treasurer in account with the Mississippi Baptist Association:

1869.	Dr.	Cr.
Balance on hand, as per last report,	$177 09	
Your Treasurer prays allowances for the following disbursements, to-wit:		
Paid S. Buffkin for printing, superintending and distributing of the minutes for 1869		$105 49
Paid E. A Haygood, messenger 3 days		6 00
" E. B. McLain, Treasurer of Executive Committee		50 00
		$161 49
Balance on hand for disbursement	$ 15 60	
Received from the churches as per appendix B	111 00	
Total	$126 00	

All of which is respectfully submittid.

JAMES A. JENKINS, Treasurer.

We the undersigned Financial Committee have examined the Treasurer's report and find the same correct.

H. S. ANDERSON, Chairman.

APPENDIX D.

Your committee on ministerial support, having carefully considered the subject submitted to them, present the following as their report:

That we regard it as a solemn duty, strictly enjoined in the scriptures of Divine Truth, binding upon every member of Christ's Church, to pay for the support of the ministry according as God has blessed them. That this duty is required to be performed on the part of the members to enable the ministers to obey the command "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." That in order to accomplish this great end we should "Upon the first day of the week every one of us lay by in store as God has prospered us, that there be no gathering when He comes.

We further report that we believe that in 1st Corinthians, 9-16, the imperative duty to peach the Gospel is commanded of all who are called to preach, and that in 1 Corinthans, 16-2—the duties of members are clearly defined

G. F. WEBB,
D. B. CAIN,
E. B. SEALE,
} Committee.

APPENDIX E.

Your committee on nominations would beg leave to submit the following report:

For Executive Committee—Brother Moses Jackson, of Providence Church; Brother E. B. Seale, of Union Church; Brother E. B. McLain, of Galilee Church; Brother W. Z. Lea, of Liberty Church; Brother J. E. Ford, of Hopewell Church.

To peach the introductory sermon at next meeting of this body, Elder T. J. Draine and Elder W. W. Bolles as his alternate.

Respectfully submitted.

H. S. ANDERSON, Chairman.

APPENDIX F.

The Treasurer of your Executive Board would beg leave to submit the following report:

E. B. McLain, Treasurer of Missionary and Benevolent Fund, in Account with the Mississippi Baptist Association:

Received as follows from	
Liberty Church	$ 23 00
Union Church	63 00
Galilee Church	100 00
Hopewell Church	55 00
East Fork Church	48 50
New Providence Church	21 00
Mt. Zion Church, Franklin county,	23 75
Mars Hill Church	20 00
Ebenezer Church	41 40
Tangipaho Church	10 00
S. E. McDonald	100 00
Mt. Pleasant Church	5 40
Sarepta Church	2 00
Mt. Zion Church, Lincoln county	18 20
Samuel Leake	1 00
Fort Adams Church	25 80
Woodville Church	38 00
Percy's Creek Church	27 80
From Treasurer Missionary Fund	123 50
Summit Church	12 00
From Treasurer of Association	50 00
Zion Hill Church	10 00
Public Collection at Hopewell Church	57 65
	$877 00

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. Z. LEA,
Secretary.

M. JACKSON,
Chairman.

APPENDIX G.

Your committee on queries beg leave to submit the following report:

Query from Liberty Church—Has a church of Christ any scriptural authority for excusing drunkenness in one of its members; though an acknowledgement should be made by the offender? *Answer*—No. Reference, I Cor. 5—11—13.

Query from Pioneer Church—What steps should a church take towards a member who applies to a sister church for membership without a letter of dismission and is received by said church as a member? and in what light should a church regard the actions of another church who thus receives one of her members?

Answer to First Clause—Your committee would recommend that the name of said member be erased from the original church book. In answer to the second clause your committee would decide that said Church was an independent Church of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

T. J. DRAINE,
Chairman.

APPENDIX H.

Your committee on temperence would beg leave to submit the following report:

That the use of intoxicating drink is operating detrimentally to the interest of Our Zion. Drunkenness is condemned by the Great Head of the Church, and we need not disguise the fact that there is too much liquor drinking among our members. Tippling is a sin against God, and any brother who would stoop so low as to be guilty of such an act, should be dealt with by his Church.

All of which, is respectfully submitted,

T. J. DRAINE,
Chairman.

APPENDIX I.

Your committee on Sabbath Schools, would report:

That they believe both pastors and members of the Baptist Churches should provide the means of instruction in the Scriptures to children, that Sabbath Schools should be encouraged in the Churches, with a view to that end.

That we earnestly recommend the organization of such schools in all churches within the bounds of this association; and that the Text book in all of them shall be the New Testament; and we recommend A. C. Dayton's Sabbath School literature, to be used as reading matter for the pupils, in addition to the new Testament. We also recommend Fish's Sabbath School Songster for the use of Schools.

GEO. F. WEBB,
Chairman.

APPENDIX J.

Your committee on abstracts would make the following report:

The Churches comprising the Association, with few exceptions, were represented by letter and delegation, many of which have during the past associational year, enjoyed refreshing seasons from the presence of the Lord. A majority of our churches have prayer meetings and flourishing Sabbath Schools, connected with their organizations. While others complain of coldness and want of zeal.

Your committee would further report, that from the reading of associational letters that there is great and alarming destitution of ministerial labor within the bounds of this association.

For further particulars we refer you to our statistical table.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

T. J. DRAINE,

Chairman.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES	DELEGATES.	COUNTIES	POSTOFFICE	Baptized.	Rec'd by lett'r	Excluded.	Restored.	Dead.	dism'd by lt'r	Whites.	Blacks.	Total membership.	Ministers	no. of minutes	Contributions	Home missions	Days of meeting
New Providence..	J. A. Jenkins, G. D. Lumpkin,	Amite	Liberty	20	3	..	2	2	2	95	25	120	..	40	5	.....	2 4
Ebenezer	S. G. Dixon	Amite	Liberty	47	8	..	11	..	2	135	86	221	..	80	8	.....	1 3
East Fork	Z. Reeves, J. E. Bates	Amite	Liberty	14	4	1	1	3	9	125	21	146	1	50	5	.....	2
Zion Hill	W. R. Jones, M. Jones	Amite	Zion Hill	18	2	1	14	6	8	...	...	144	..	40	5	10 00	1
Galilee	S. Jackson, E. B. McLane, S. T. VanNorman ..	Amite	Liberty	1	..	1	4	4	48	94	76	170	..	40	5	.....	2
Hopewell	W. P. Dodds, T. J. Scott	Franklin	Meadville	4	1	1	..	1	5	52	19	71	..	25	5	.....	3
Marshill	Jas. A. Jenkins	Amite	Smithdale	3	..	..	..	1	3	82	2	84	..	40	5	.....	3
Friendship	Jacob Curtis, Z. Reeves, jr	Pike	Summit	11	..	1	..	1	6	44	4	48	..	30	3	.....	...
Mt Pleasant	P. Wallis, Z. Wallis	Lincoln	Boguechitto	15	3	1	..	2	9	103	4	107	..	..	4	5 40	...
Liberty	T. J. Draine, G F Webb, Lea, Griffin, P H Dixon	Amite	Liberty	123	16	4	..	..	6	196	190	386	1	40	8	50 00	1 3
Mt Zion	J P Jones. D B Cain, J M McGehee, H S Anderson	Franklin	Meadville	22	1	1	3	1	17	21	...	219	..	50	8	.....	4
Friendship	J C Byrd, B Smith,	Franklin	Brookhaven	1	..	2	..	..	4	42	..	42	..	20	3	.....	2
Mt Zion	H A Davis, E P Douglas	Lincoln	Brookhaven	14	5	..	4	1	8	111	2	116	1	50	6	18 15	4
Boguechitto	No Delegation	Lincoln														.....	...
Sarepta	W D Thompson, W Mullins	Franklin	Meadville	1	..	3	..	3	..	..	..	42	..	20	4	2 00	2
Union	S Buffkin, E B Seale	Franklin	Morgan's Fork	6	2	24	3	3	40	82	15	97	..	30	5	.....	4
Damascus	J F Porter	Lincoln	Brookhaven	..	..	3	..	..	2	38	..	38	..	20	3	.....	4
Mt Vernon	Z Lofton, J Cagle	Lincoln	Boguechitto	10	2	2	1	..	9	..	..	72	..	40	4	.....	1
Summit	Jas B Quin, C S Turner	Pike	Summit	2	3	..	..	2	..	68	..	68	1	40	5	.....	1 3
Percey's Creek	S E McDonald	Wilkinson	Woodville	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	..	33	..	15	3	.....	3
Pioneer	S Leake	Wilkinson	Woodville	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	43	1	30	5	.....	3
Tangipaho	W F Cain, A J Everett	Amite	Summit	6	2	..	..	..	..	39	..	39	..	30	3	5 00	3
Fort Adams	Joel Glass, Joshua Glass	Wilkinson	Fort Adams	17	..	..	10	11	4	..	..	74	2	30	9	5 45	4
Ramah	No Delegation															.....	...
Macedonia	Letter	Lincoln	Brookhaven	..	1	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	1	15	3	.....	1
Spring Hill	J P Claughton	Franklin	Knoxville	..	..	10	1	1	1	17	..	17	..	10	2	.....	...
Woodville	W W Bolles, W J Dove	Wilkinson	Woodville	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	..	20	5	.....	...

Shiloh and St. Helena not represented.

+ Bethel dropped

ARTICLES OF FAITH, RULES, ETC.,

OF THE

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

PREAMBLE.

We, the churches of Jesus Christ, who have been regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches, and of maintaining a correspondence for preserving a federal union among all the churches of the same faith and order. We, therefore, do agree to unite and form ourselves into an association, upon the following principles:

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one only true and living God; and that there are a trinity of persons in the Godhead—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the same in essence, equal in power and glory.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, are of divine authority, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the fall of Adam; in the imputation of his sins to all his posterity; in the total depravity of human nature; and in man's inability to restore himself to the favor of God.

4. We believe in the everlasting love of God to his people; in the eternal, unconditional election of a definite number of the human family to grace and glory.

5. We believe that sinners are only justified in the sight of God, by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, which is unto all and upon all them that believe.

6. We believe all those who were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world are, in time, effectually called, regenerated, converted and sanctified; and are kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation.

7. We believe there is one meditator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, who, by the satisfaction which he made to law and justice, "in becoming an offering for sin," hath, by his most precious blood, redeemed the elect from under the curse of the law, that they might be holy and without blame before him in love.

8. We believe good works are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, are evidences of a gracious state, and that it is the duty of all believers to perform them from a principle of love.

9. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment,

and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

The following is the report of a committee appointed at the meeting of the Association in 1844, to whom was referred the revision of the fourth article of Faith, as adopted by the Association at her organization :

Your committee have given all the attention to the subject that they are capable of, and have invited the assistance of other brethren to a full and free discussion of the whole matter. Therefore, your committee has come to the conclusion that the fourth article of faith, as expressed in your abstract, contains the doctrine of God as taught by Christ and his Apostles, and held by the church of Christ in every age, so far as substance is concerned; and the mode of expression is such as had been adopted by many of our brethren, for centuries past, both in Europe and America. Your body was organized upon this article ; she has lived in much peace and harmony ; she has enjoyed much prosperity ; God, our Savior, has greatly enlarged our borders, and notwithstanding there has been recently many aspersions cast upon the form of words, yet your committe is of the opinion that the real objection is against the important facts contained in the language used: *i. e.*, in the idea of the word eternal in connection with that of election of God, an idea which your committee would be unwilling to see expunged ; for if God be eternal and unchangeable, then his choice must be eternal and unchangeable, or it is clear that he does things now that he did not from eternity propose to do, and, consequently, is changeable.

The word unconditional, in connection with election, contains the idea that God does not make choice of one rather than another, because of any amiable qualities in the former rather than the latter, but of His own Sovereign will. As to the number of God's choice being definite, this idea is as palpable, that no individual who will for a moment consider the character of God, but must see that the number of the members of Christ's mystical body must be definite or indefinite ; if the latter, then how could the Savior, who is the wisdom of God, know what number of seats to prepare in the mansions of glory, to be filled by his saints ; but he knew precisely how many the Father hath given him, the difficulty is removed.

In view of the above facts and considerations, your committee would respectfully offer the following resolution :

Resolved, That the fourth article be retained, without alteration, and the following quotations from the Scriptures be annexed in support of the doctrine contained in said article :

Jeremiah XXXI—3 : "The Lord hath appeared of old unto me saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love—therefore with loving kindness hath I drawn thee." Election unconditional on the part of man.

Eph. I—4 : "According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy, and without blame before him in love."

Thess. I—4. "Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God."

I Peter I—2 : "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. Grace be unto you and peace be multiplied."

DEFINITE NUMBER.

II Tim. II—19: "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his. And let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

John X—3: "To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice; and he calleth his own sheep by name and leadeth them out."

John XVII—1 "As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he shall give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him."

John VI—37: "All that the father giveth me shall come unto me: and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

Dear Brethren, we have referred to a few texts of Scripture, which we believe support the doctrine contained in the fourth article upon which with many others of kindred kind our faith rests. All of which we respectfully submitted.

EZRA COURTNEY, Chairman.

ON GOSPEL ORDER.

1. We believe that the visible church of Jesus Christ is a congregation of faithful persons, who have given themselves up to the Lord, and to one another, and have covenanted to keep up a godly discipline agreeable to the rules of the gospel.

2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church, the only law giver; that the government is with the body—the church—and is equally the right and privilege of each member thereof.

3. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Gospel Ordinances, appointed by Jesus Christ, and are to be continued in the church.

4. We believe that baptism by immersion is the only scriptural mode, and that believers are the only proper subjects.

5. We believe that none but regularly baptized church members have a right to partake of the Lord's Supper.

6. We believe it to be the duty and privilege of all believers to make a public profession of their faith, to submit to baptism, by immersion, and to give themselves members of the visible church.

7. We believe it to be the duty of every organized church to expel from her communion all disorderly members who are immoral in their lives, or hold doctrines contrary to the Scriptures.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. Those delegates who are regularly chosen by the churches in our union shall compose the Association.

2. The delegates so chosen shall produce letters from their respective

churches certifying their appointment, together with their number in fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and dead since the last association.

3. The delegates thus chosen and convened shall be denominated the "Mississippi Baptist Association."

4. This association shall have a Moderator and Clerk who shall be chosen by the members present.

5. If new churches desire to be admitted into the union, they shall petition by letter and delegates; if, on examination, found orthodox and orderly, they shall be received by the association, manifested by the Moderator giving their delegates the right hand of fellowship.

6. No Church in the union shall have a right to more than two delegates, until she shall have a right to an additional delegate for every fifty.

7. Every query sent to the association by any church in the union, shall be read and put to vote by the Moderator, whether it shall be debated, and if there be a majority for it, it shall be taken up and investigated; provided, always that those be first considered which affect the union of the churches.

8. Every motion made and seconded shall be taken up by the association, except it be withdrawn by the person who made it.

9. Only one person shall speak at once, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator.

10. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted, except he depart from the subject, break the rules of decorum, or cast reflection on a brother, in which case he shall be immediately called to order by the Moderator.

11. No person shall speak more than twice upon the same subject without leave of the association.

12. No brother shall be suffered to whisper or laugh during the conference; neither shall he absent himself without leave of the Moderator.

13. The Moderator shall have the liberty of speaking on any question that may be debated, provided the chair may be previously filled, and have the privilege of voting only when the association is equally divided.

14. The names of the delegates shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and called over as often as the association may deem expedient.

15. We think it absolutely necessary to have an association fund for defraying the expense of the same; for the raising and supporting of which, we think it the duty of each Church in the union to contribute such sums as they may deem proper, and send by the hands of their delegates to the association; and the money thus contributed by the churches shall be deposited in the hands of a treasurer, by the association, who shall be accountable to the association for all moneys by him received and paid out, according to the direction of the same.

16. The minutes of the association shall be read and corrected if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the association rises.

17. These rules of decorum and gospel order may be altered, changed or amended, from time to time, or any part of them, when a majority of all the churches in the association shall deem it necessary, but the articles of faith shall not be subject to any alteration, only as respects form.

POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1. It shall be the business of this association to provide for the union of the churches.

2. To keep up a friendly correspondence, when convenient, with those associations of the same faith and order.

3. This association shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor to infringe upon any of the internal rights of the churches.

4. It shall be the duty of this association to give the churches the best advice in its power in difficult matters; to inquire into any difficulties which may exist between sister churches and remove them if possible.

To admit any of the brethren in the ministry as assistants, but not to give them the privilege of voting.

6. This association shall have power to withdraw from any Church in the union which may be unsound in principle or immoral in practice, until reclaimed.

7. To appoint any person or persons by and with their consent, to transact any business which the association may deem necessary.

8. The association shall have power to adjourn to any time or place they may think most proper.

9. The association shall be opened and closed with prayer.